

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **TUXFORD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIBRARY OPENING HOURS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for a change to Tuxford Community Partnership Library's opening hours following a customer consultation exercise.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Context**

2. The Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries outlines priorities for the service for 2012 – 2022 and has key pledges including:
  - putting libraries at the heart of communities
  - libraries being where people live
  - responding to local need
3. The Strategy has key actions including:
  - providing resources and access to services in partnership with local communities and customers
  - to locate library services in the best location for the local community, with a key outcome of co-locating with other services.
4. Tuxford is one of the 28 level 3 libraries in Nottinghamshire. Visitors last year amounted to 5,963 with over 12,200 books and other items being issued.
5. In November 2015 Tuxford Library became a Community Partnership Library when it re-located from its former home within a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Grade II\* listed building with listed structural access difficulties to its new location in a classroom within Tuxford Primary Academy.
6. Since its opening day, the increased accessibility of the new location has proved popular and children's membership in particular has increased substantially with 49 out of the 53 new members being children under 14. This new membership total for the first six weeks of opening is 60% of the total new membership in 2014/15. The majority of these children are of school age but there is, on the same site, a Surestart Centre and the Academy's Mulberry Bush Nursery School; and by requesting a change to the current opening hours it is hoped to increase their access to the library's resources.

7. The library is open for a total of 12 hours with opening hours currently consisting of two weekday afternoons, Tuesday 2-6.30 and Friday 2-6, and Saturday morning 9.30-1.00pm. These times do not include a weekday morning and this has proved problematic in allowing Surestart visits to take place. Therefore it was thought worthwhile, in terms of opening hour accessibility, to consult with current and potential customers.
8. A customer consultation exercise was undertaken from 3 November to 4 December 2015 through survey forms within the library. In addition Tuxford parents were made aware of the consultation through the school newsletter and Surestart leaders were also asked for their opinion.
9. In total, 101 forms were completed with 74% of customers voted for a change to the current opening hours as follows:
  - Option A: maintain the current opening hours gained 26 (25.7%) votes
  - Option B: Tuesday afternoon 2-5.30, Friday 9-1 & 2-4, Saturday 10-12.30 gained 34 (33.6%) votes
  - Option C: Tuesday 9-2.30, Friday 2-6, Saturday 10-12.30 gained 30 (29.7%) votes
  - Option D: Monday 9-12, Tuesday 2-5.30, Friday 2-5.30, Saturday 10-12 gained 11(10.9%) votes.
10. A full Community Partnership Library with Tuxford Primary Academy through increased volunteering and community activity is being developed and the opportunity to help in a morning session and a shorter Friday afternoon and Saturday morning session increases the flexibility and appeal of the volunteering opportunity. In addition it is intended that in due course the volunteering hours will increase to extend the total opening hours for Tuxford Library.

### **Other Options Considered**

11. The option not to change the hours was considered but the opportunity to consult following the co-location was thought worthwhile.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. Option B, the most popular option, would cause least disruption to current users and those favouring Option A at the same time as it would allow a morning option and increase the opportunity of allowing Surestart customers easier accessibility to Tuxford Library's resources.
13. This proposal is the most cost effective way of meeting customer demand and local operational needs.
14. Varying the opening hours to include a weekday morning session and shortened Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions increases the flexibility and appeal of the volunteering offer and thereby encourages greater volunteer numbers.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

16. There are no additional staffing costs as existing staff have agreed to make changes to their timetables; furthermore no additional hours are being used.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

17. This scheme enables ongoing provision of a static library service in the Tuxford area and increases its accessibility.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That a change to Tuxford Community Partnership Library's opening hours, as detailed in Option B in the report, be approved.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (SMG 18/12/15)**

18. The Committee has responsibility for libraries and archives. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

## **Financial Comments (SS 23/12/15)**

19. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 16 of the report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

A Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries – report to County Council on 15 December 2011

Co-location of Tuxford Library into Tuxford Academy – report to Culture Committee on 21 July 2015

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Tuxford                      Cllr John Ogle

C0760